

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2 13 and 14 have been amended. Support for the amended claim set can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 3, lines 35-36 and page 5, lines 8-11.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Statement of Substance of Interview

The Examiners are thanked for graciously conducting a personal interview with the applicant's representative on March 19, 2009. During the interview the patentability of the present invention was discussed over the applied art references of ANCRENAZ (U.S. Patent 5,067,358) and SATO (U.S. Patent 6,592,481), along with potential claim amendments to better distinguish the present invention over the applied art.

At the end of the interview, the Examiners prepared an interview summary. The interview summary has been reviewed, and it appears to accurately reflect the substance of the interview.

Rejections Based on ANCRENAZ

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-15, 17, 18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over ANCRENAZ (U.S. Patent 5,067,358) in view of SATO (U.S. Patent 6,592,481). Claims 4 and 16 have been rejected under 35 USC

§103(a) as being unpatentable over ANCRENAZ in view of SATO, and further in view of GARNJOST et al. (U.S. Patent 5,903,077). Claims 7 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over ANCRENAZ in view of SATO, and further in view of BURGESS, JR. et al. (U.S. Patent 5,584,375). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to an antivibration device for an airframe or helicopter that is illustrated, by way of example, in Figure 1 of the application, which is reproduced below.

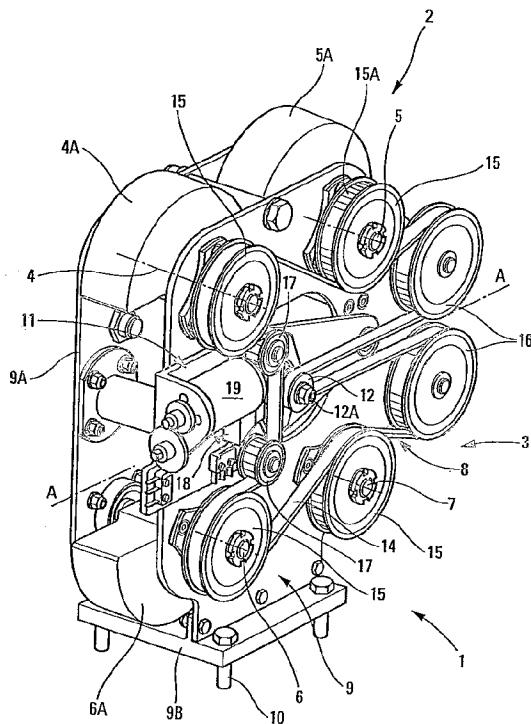


Fig. 1

Figure 1 shows sets 2, 3 arranged about an axis of symmetry A so as to generate an anti-vibratory phase offset. Set

2 includes rotors 2, 4 and set 3 includes rotors 6, 7.

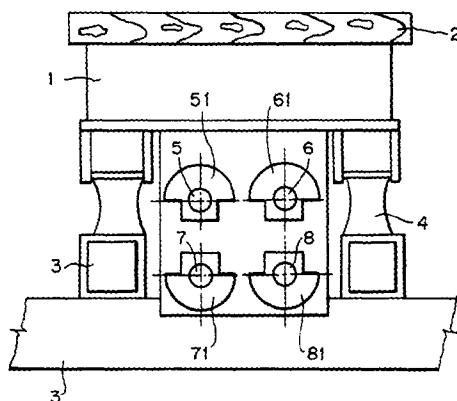
Controllable moving equipment 11 carries a drive system 8.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites: "controllable moving equipment (11) carrying said drive system (8) and capable of sliding along said axis of symmetry to vary a phase offset between the eccentric flyweight rotors of the sets."

Claim 1 as currently amended also recites: "the phase offset being a function of a vibration that needs to be absorbed," and "the antivibration device is fitted to the airframe or the helicopter."

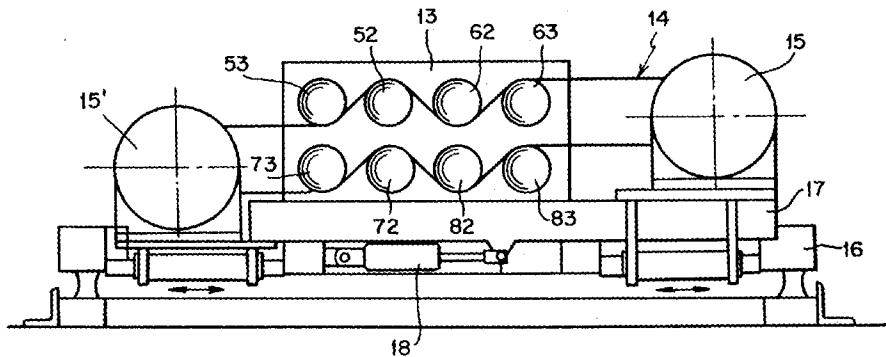
ANCRENAZ is non-analogous art pertaining to a vibration table for the manufacture of concrete products. The Official Action refers to Figure 1 of ANCRENAZ, which is reproduced below.

FIG. 1



The vibrating table of ANCRENAZ can also be seen in Figure 3 of the reference, which is reproduced below.

FIG. 3



ANCRENAZ's vibration device includes at least two sets each having two identical rotors (52, 62, 72, 82) with respective eccentric flyweights (51, 61, 71, 81, column 3, lines 29-30). The sets being are disposed symmetrically about an axis of symmetry, and the axes of rotation of the rotors are parallel to one another and orthogonal to the axis of symmetry, and a drive system (14) drives the device. The device includes controllable moving equipment (15, 15') carrying the drive system (14), and controllable moving equipment is supported by a slide (17) capable of sliding transversally in view of the rotor along an axis which is parallel but distinct to the axis of symmetry, The drive system includes a motor (15) for rotating the rotors, having its axis disposed perpendicularly to the axis of symmetry, and driving an endless connection.

Consequently, ANCRENAZ fails to describe a controllable moving equipment which slides along the axis of symmetry, but an equipment which slides along a slide located under the rotors.

ANCRENAZ also fails to set forth an antivibration device for an airframe or a helicopter.

ANCRENAZ further fails to set forth a phase offset that is a function of the vibration that needs to be absorbed.

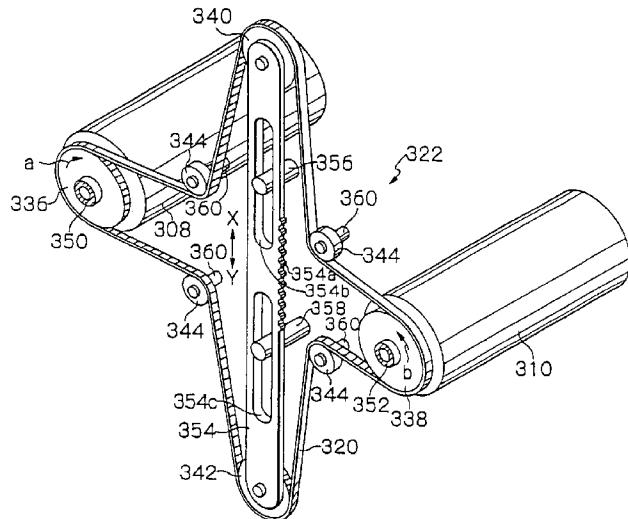
Also, the motor of ANCRENAZ is not disposed between the sets of rotors. Cf. claims 12 and 13 of the present invention.

Regarding claims 2 and 14, the Official Action acknowledges that ANECRAZ is silent with regard to phase offset ϕ between the eccentric flyweight rotors disposed symmetrically facing each other (4, 6; 5, 7) about the axis of symmetry is equal to $2d/r$, where d corresponds to the linear displacement of said moving equipment (11) along said axis of symmetry, and r corresponds to an identical winding radius of the endless connection about the centers of said rotors. The Official Action nonetheless asserts that this ratio of $\phi=2d/r$ would be inherent from the distances.

However, there is no teaching or inference in the vibrating table of ANCRENAZ pertaining to a phase offset ϕ between the eccentric flyweight rotors that is a function of an airframe vibration that needs to be absorbed.

The Official Action acknowledges that ANCRENAZ fails to disclose the controllable moving equipment sliding along an axis of symmetry. The Official Action then refers to Figure 8 of SATO, which is reproduced below.

FIG. 8



However, Figure 8 of SATO shows an adjusting device of a single-pass type color printer. There is no technology in SATO that pertains to damping vibrations in an airframe such as a helicopter. SATO particularly fails to disclose or infer a phase offset ϕ between the eccentric flyweight rotors and about an axis of symmetry, which is a function of the airframe vibration that needs to be absorbed.

The teachings of GARNJOST et al. and BURGESS, JR. et al. fail to address the deficiencies of ANCRENAZ and SATO discussed above. One of ordinary skill and creativity would thus fail to produce a claimed embodiment of the present invention from a knowledge of the applied art references, and a *prima facie* case of unpatentability has thus not been made.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The objections and rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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